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STAT

Bush Discounts Question Of Politics in CIA Job

HOUSTON (UPI) — Former Republican national Chairman George Bush, now President Ford's nominee for director of the CIA, says politics would be kept out of the agency if his appointment is confirmed.

Bush, the U.S. envoy to China, was interviewed Friday by telephone from his Peking residence by a radio station in his Texas hometown. He expressed confidence in his ability to overcome the objections of Sen. Frank Church, D-Idaho, and win Senate approval.

Church, chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, opposes the nomination because of the former congressman's involvement in the GOP.

"I think it is proper and understandable to raise the question of politics," Bush said. "I can understand

anybody's legitimate desire in keeping politics out of an agency like the Central Intelligence Agency, so I think it's proper to raise the question.

"And I also feel very confident that I will be able to answer that question at the appropriate time to the satisfaction of the senators."

Bush said he would disagree with the President if necessary and express his own opinion as agency head.

"I don't think the President would have nominated me if he had wanted someone to agree with him all the time," he said. He declined to discuss any plans for operation of the agency.

Bush has been mentioned as a possible running mate for President Ford, but said he was not considering any position other than CIA

director. He said he will return home following the President's upcoming trip to China.

"All political matters and all matters relating to the CIA will be discussed at the time of these confirmation hearings," he said. "I'm not thinking of any other government position."

However, Vice President Nelson A. Rockefeller says statements Bush will have to make in the confirmation hearings might sacrifice his political future.

Rockefeller did not elaborate on what kind of statements could hurt Bush's political future but told a news conference in Lincolnshire, Ill. Friday night, "this makes a difficult situation for his elective political future."

He added, "I have to say to you in light of hindsight, this is a tough situation for George Bush."